

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A process for the treatment of ~~diseases or disorders of the inner ear that are linked with damage or destruction of the sensory cells of the inner ear, perception deafness~~, comprising the step of at least partly inhibiting or eliminating the action of at least one cell cycle inhibitor selected from the group consisting of p21Cip1, p27Kip1 and p57Kip2 present in the inner ear using by local administration of an active ingredient to the inner ear that promotes regeneration of the sensory cells of the inner ear.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~diseases or disorders of the inner ear that are linked with damage or destruction of the sensory cells of the inner ear~~, a mammalian subject suffering from perception deafness, comprising locally administering an active ingredient to the inner ear that inhibits or eliminates the action of a cell cycle inhibitor present in the inner ear, selected from the group consisting of p21Cip1, p27Kip1 and p57Kip2.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 28, characterized in that the regeneration of the sensory cells of the inner ear takes place by stimulating proliferation of the supporting cells of the inner ear.

32. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 28, characterized in that the sensory cells of the inner ear are hair cells.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[33]]~~ 28, characterized in that the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor is the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p27Kip1.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 28, characterized in that the active ingredient is at least one peptide or at least one protein.

37. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 28, characterized in that the active ingredient is at least one nucleic acid molecule.

38. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 37, characterized in that the nucleic acid molecule codes for a peptide or protein.

39. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 37, characterized in that the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule.

40. (Previously presented). The process according to claim 39, characterized in that the nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA molecule.

41. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[47]]~~ 37, characterized in that the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA molecule.

42. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 28, characterized in that the active ingredient is in the form of a vector.

43. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 42, characterized in that the vector is a viral vector.

44. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 43, characterized in that the ~~virus~~ viral vector is derived from a retrovirus, an adenovirus or an adeno-associated virus.

45. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 42, characterized in that the ~~viral~~ vector is a non-viral vector.

46. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 37, characterized in that the active ingredient is a nucleic acid molecule packed in a liposome or lipoplex.

47. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 28, characterized in that the active ingredient is used in a therapeutically active quantity.

48-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition or medicament, characterized in that it contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of at least one active ingredient able to inhibit or eliminate the action of ~~a cell cycle~~ at least one cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor present in the inner ear selected from the group consisting of p21^{Cip1}, p27^{Kip1} and p57^{Kip2}.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 37 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a recombinant nucleic acid molecule.

58. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 42 wherein said vector carries a nucleic acid molecule.

59-61. (Canceled)

62 (Previously presented) The process according to claim 39, characterized in that the DNA molecule is an antisense DNA molecule.

63. (New) A process for promoting regeneration and growth of sensory hair cells in the inner ear of a mammalian subject in need thereof, comprising the step of locally administering an active ingredient that at least partly inhibits or eliminates the action of at least one cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor selected from the group consisting of p21^{Cip1}, p27^{Kip1} and p57^{Kip2}.

64. (New) The process according to claim 63, wherein said active ingredient at least partly inhibits or eliminates the action of p27^{Kip1}.

65. (New) The process according to claim 64, wherein said active ingredient is a nucleic acid molecule.

66. (New) The process according to claim 65, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an antisense DNA molecule.

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